

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 22-32 were presented. Claims 26, 27 and 32 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 22, 28 and 29 are amended. Claims 22-25 and 28-31 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 27-30 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 27 depends from intervening claim 26, which depends from base claim 22. Claim 22 is amended to include all limitations of claims 26 and 27, and claims 26 and 27 are canceled without prejudice. Thus, claim 22 is now in allowable form. Claims 23-25, 28 (as amended) and 31 depend from claim 22 and are similarly allowable.

Claim 29 depends from intervening claim 26, which depends from base claim 22. Claim 29 is amended to include all limitations of intervening claim 26 and base claim 22. Thus, claim 29 is now in allowable form. Claim 30 depends from claim 29 and is similarly allowable.

In view of these amendments, claims 22-25 and 28-31 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 22-26, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Taketoshi (US 5,389,898). As discussed above, claims 22-25 and 31 have been amended into condition for allowance. Claims 26 and 32 are canceled, without prejudice, rendering their grounds for rejection moot.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

Appl. No. 10/786,921
Amdt. dated September 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 28, 2006

Atty. Ref. 88537.0030
Customer No. 26021

Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 25, 2006

By: 

Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: 310-785-4600
Facsimile: 310-785-4601